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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS AND RELATED MATTERS

Plans of international organizations in statistics

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report refers to two summaries of the future plans in statistics of the organizations of the United Nations system and several other international organizations, entitled "Plans of international organizations in statistics" and "Programmes of international statistical work in the ECE region, 1994/95 and 1995/96: an integrated presentation" (CES/830), which are before the Commission as background documents.

2. The summaries are of necessity selective in coverage, and for most of the organizations the plan periods vary. Only new activities and activities that have been cancelled or modified significantly are presented. Routine ongoing activities, such as the issuance of recurrent publications and other activities that have not changed since the twenty-seventh session of the Commission, are in general not covered.

3. The following organizations/agencies have been included in the report: Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (UNSTAT), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

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(UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), World Tourism Organization (WTO) and Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI).

4. The summaries have been structured on a subject-matter basis. The classification used is the Administrative Committee on Coordination Programme Classification, which is broadly in use in the United Nations system for reporting on programmes on a system-wide basis.

5. All seminars, workshops, household surveys, training and technical cooperation missions were placed under the heading "Capacity-building and training", except where it was clear that a seminar or workshop was aimed at methodological development, in which case it was placed under the relevant subject-matter heading. In cases where the objective was not clear, the item was placed under the heading "Capacity-building and training". All technical cooperation activities were placed under the heading "Capacity-building and training" and not under the particular subject-matter heading. Meetings of regional conferences of statisticians, meetings of the governing statistical bodies of specialized agencies and other similar meetings were also placed under the heading "Capacity-building and training".

6. Three special groupings were created for the following functions: "Classifications", "Technological development and databases" and "Coordination". This was done generally by duplicating notable information from the subject-matter entries and gives an indication of the activities carried out in those three areas of work, which are known to be of interest to the Commission.

7. The summaries are selective: they provide information on those plans that organizations considered the most important in their overall work over the period covered. They do not provide a comprehensive statement of plans under each heading.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

8. The Commission may wish to comment on the future plans of the international organizations in the various subject areas. The Commission may also wish to provide additional guidance on the coverage and focus of the report that it might prefer in the future so as to better meet the needs of the Commission.